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October 6, 2023

VIA ECF

United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
Attn: Hon. Carol B. Amon, U.S.D.J.
225 Cadman Plaza East
Courtroom 10D South
Brooklyn, NY 11201-1804

Re: *Martinez, et al. v. Atlantis Super Wash Center Inc., et al.*
Case No.: 1:23-cv-4667 (CBA) (PK)

Dear Judge Amon:

This firm represents Defendants Atlantis Super Wash Center Inc., Clean City Laundry Inc., and Nick Mira (collectively hereinafter the “Defendants”), who submit this letter motion in accordance with ¶ 3(A) of this Court’s Individual Motion Practices and Rules to respectfully request: (i) a pre-motion conference in anticipation of Defendants’ motion to dismiss the complaint for lack of subject matter jurisdiction and failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted pursuant to Rules 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (hereinafter referred to as “Rules” or “Rule”); and (ii) a mediation referral Order pursuant to Local Civil Rule 83.8 of the Local Rules of the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York (hereinafter the “Local Rules” or “LCR”).

Defendants provide the basis of their anticipated motion below.

Relevant Background

On June 22, 2023, Plaintiffs Ester Martinez (“Martinez”), Leria Perez Zapata (“Zapata”), and Mateo Guzman (“Guzman”) (Martinez, Zapata, and Guzman collectively hereinafter the “Plaintiffs”) commenced the instant case asserting causes of action under: (i) the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”) for unpaid overtime wages; (ii) the New York Labor Law (“NYLL”) for unpaid overtime wages; (iii) the NYLL for failure to furnish wage notices; (iv) the NYLL for failure to provide wage statements; (v) the NYLL for failure to pay minimum wages; and (vi) the NYLL for spread of hours compensation. See Docket Entry [1](#).

This Court Should Dismiss Plaintiff’s Wage-and-Hour Claims for Failure to State a Claim

Plaintiffs allege that Martinez generally worked anywhere from 47.5 to 73.5 hours each week and was paid \$13.00 to \$15.00 per hour, but was not compensated for all hours worked. See Id. at ¶¶ 30-40 (“Defendants failed to pay Martinez overtime compensation for all hours that she worked in excess of 40 each week”).

Hon. Carol B. Amon, U.S.D.J.

October 6, 2023

Page | 2

Plaintiffs also allege that Zapata generally worked anywhere from 47.5 to 57.5 hours each week and was paid \$90.00 per day or \$11.00 per hour, but was not compensated for all hours worked. See Id. at ¶¶ 44-53 (“Defendants failed to pay Zapata overtime compensation for all hours that she worked in excess of 40 each week”).

Plaintiffs similarly allege that Guzman generally worked 66 hours each week and was paid \$600.00 per week, but was not compensated for all hours worked. See Id. at ¶¶ 57-63 (“Defendants failed to pay Guzman overtime compensation for all hours that she worked in excess of 40 each week”).

The FLSA requires that a covered employee be compensated at a rate of no less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for any hours worked in excess of forty per week. See 29 U.S.C. § 207(a)(1). The NYLL adopts this same standard. See 12 NYCRR § 142–2.2 (2011) (incorporating the FLSA definition of overtime into the NYLL). “[T]o survive a motion to dismiss [an FLSA overtime claim], [p]laintiffs must allege sufficient factual matter to state a plausible claim that they worked compensable overtime in a workweek longer than [forty (40)] hours.” See Lundy v. Catholic Health System of Long Island Inc., 711 F.3d 106, 114 (2d Cir. 2013); see also Nakahata v. New York-Presbyterian Healthcare Sys., Inc., 723 F.3d 192, 200 (2d Cir. 2013).

Allegations that a plaintiff “regularly worked” more than forty hours per week are insufficient to state a claim. See Dejesus v. HF Mgmt. Servs., LLC, 726 F.3d 85, 89-90 (2d Cir. 2013) (citing Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570); Nakahata, 723 F.3d at 199-201; Gisomme v. HealthEx Corp., No. 13-CIV.-2541, 2014 WL 2041824, at *2 (E.D.N.Y. May 15, 2014) (concluding Plaintiff’s “allegation of an ‘average’ of 50 hours or more” per week insufficient to “state a claim for failure to pay overtime compensation in a given workweek” (internal quotation marks omitted)).

Here, Plaintiffs fail to remotely meet the plausibility standard required to state a claim for his wage-and-hour causes of action. They fail to identify a single week in which any of them worked and were not paid at least the minimum wage or any overtime wages. Accordingly, their wage-and-hour claims must be dismissed.

This Court Should Decline to Exercise Supplemental Jurisdiction over the State Law Claims

The only basis for this Court to have subject matter jurisdiction is the federal question posed by Plaintiff’s FLSA claims. See 28 U.S.C. § 1331. Defendants respectfully submit that this Court should decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the causes of action under the NYLL in this case except for the overtime and minimum wage claims, which should be dismissed for the same reasons set forth *supra*.

When a district court has original jurisdiction over claims in a case, it “shall have supplemental jurisdiction over all other claims that are so related to claims in the action ... that they form part of the same case or controversy under Article III.” See F5 Capital v. Pappas, 856 F.3d 61, 77 (2d Cir. 2017) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a)).

Hon. Carol B. Amon, U.S.D.J.

October 6, 2023

Page | 3

“Pendent jurisdiction ... exists whenever there is a claim ‘arising under [federal law],’ *and the relationship between that claim and the state claim permits the conclusion that the entire action before the court comprises but one constitutional ‘case.’*” See United Mine Workers of Am. v. Gibbs, 383 U.S. 715, 725 (1966) (quoting U.S. Const. art. III, § 2) (emphasis added)). Claims are considered “‘part of the same case or controversy’ if they ‘derive from a common nucleus of operative fact.’” See Shahriar v. Smith & Wollensky Rest. Grp., Inc., 659 F.3d 234, 245 (2d Cir. 2011) (quoting Briarpatch Ltd., L.P. v. Phoenix Pictures, Inc., 373 F.3d 296, 308 (2d Cir. 2004)).

Here, the only federal claims raised arise under the FLSA. As such, only the NYLL claims for unpaid minimum wage and unpaid overtime may properly form the basis for having a relationship to the FLSA claims for the identical issues. Consequently, the remaining state law claims – recordkeeping violations and spread of hours compensation – have no common nucleus of operative facts with Plaintiff’s overtime claims under federal law.

Accordingly, this Court must dismiss decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the remaining claims as they cannot be considered “part of the same case or controversy” nor “derive from a common nucleus of operative fact.”

The Parties’ Joint Request for a Mediation Referral Order Should be Granted

The parties have conferred and respectfully request, jointly, that a mediation referral Order be entered pursuant to LCR 83.8, as doing so comports with Rule 1, which requires that the Rules should be construed, administered, and employed by the court and the parties to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action and proceeding. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 1 (emphasis added).

For the foregoing reasons, Defendants request a mediation referral Order and, barring a settlement following a mediation, that a pre-motion conference be scheduled.

Dated: Lake Success, New York

October 6, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

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/s

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Hon. Carol B. Amon, U.S.D.J.

October 6, 2023

Page | 4

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